

## **CHAPTER 3: EXISTING CONDITIONS, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

This chapter presents a discussion of all elements of the proposed project (as described in the previous chapter) as they affect, or are affected by, each element of the environment. For most elements of the environment (e.g., earth, wetlands, surface water, etc.) site-specific descriptions of the affected environment corresponding to the five major project elements are presented. For some elements (e.g., air quality, groundwater), the geographic separation of major project elements is of little value to the analysis because of the landscape scale of existing conditions and potential impacts. For traffic and transportation, virtually all vehicles would arrive and depart from a single point during construction, and similarly during operation (although at a slightly different point). For cultural resources, the mitigation measure for discovering resources during construction is the same regardless of where in the overall project site they might be found.

To ease the readers' review, efforts have been made to reduce redundancy in presentation of the analysis. Affected Environment, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures have been specifically distinguished into major project elements only where it assists in understanding the effects of the project. Where the effects are the same for two or more major project elements, an effort has been made to consolidate the analysis. If a specific project element is not mentioned, it is because it has been determined that no effect, adverse or beneficial, would occur.